

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100230098-6

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION									
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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR				DATE-TIME GROUP		CITE		MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER	
				CIA/WHSS					

CIA/OCT/WH/ZWH 740425

SOURCE REF:

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3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMARA//

~~PASS TO MR HORAN, WESC~~

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

INVOLVED

SENSITIVE

ITEM NO: WH-7

DATE: 25 APR 74

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AFRICA AND THE LISBON COUP

REF : LUANDA 234, 251415Z APR 74, CONF: UPI 425, 25 APR 74, UNCLAS

AT PRESENT, ACCORDING TO THE LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN TERRITORIES ARE CONFUSED AND HAVE ADOPTED A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE REGARDING THE COUP IN LISBON. WHATEVER THE FINAL OUTCOME IN LISBON, HOWEVER, THE BASIC INSURGENCY PROBLEM IN THE TERRITORIES WILL REMAIN AND MAY EVEN INCREASE AS THE REBELS TAKE HEART FROM LISBON'S DISARRAY.

THE INSURGENTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT NOTHING LESS THAN A COMPLETE PORTUGUESE WITHDRAWAL FROM AFRICA AND THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO THE TERRITORIES. THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO ACCEPT A GOVERNMENT WHICH FAVORS INCREASED AUTONOMY WITHIN A COMMONWEALTH FOR THE TERRITORIES, AS PROPOSED

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EDITIONS

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BY GENERAL SPINOLA. THUS, ANY MOVE TOWARD COMMONWEALTH STATUS WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME AND BE COUPLED WITH A PROGRAM OF POLITICAL TUTELAGE OF PRO-PORTUGUESE ELEMENTS OF THE LOCAL POPULATIONS, OUTTRESSED BY CONTINUED MILITARY SUPPORT UNTIL THE TERRITORIES ARE CAPABLE OF ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN DEFENSE.

SUPPORT FOR SPINOLA'S VIEWS IS STRONG IN THE TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY AMONG JUNIOR AND FIELD GRADE OFFICERS. THIS SUPPORT HAS BEEN HELD IN CHECK SO FAR, HOWEVER, BY STRONG CONSERVATIVE FEELING AMONG SENIOR ELEMENTS OF THE MILITARY, CIVILIAN, AND SECURITY STRUCTURES, BUT COULD SPREAD, IF THE NEW GOVERNMENT CAN SHOW THAT A PULL-BACK FROM AFRICA WILL NOT TARNISH THE ARMY'S IMAGE. PUBLIC OPINION PROBABLY WOULD FAVOR INCREASED AUTONOMY BUT NOT AT THE RISK OF A PORTUGUESE MILITARY WITHDRAWAL.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA, LONG SUSPICIOUS OF PORTUGAL'S STAYING POWER IN AFRICA, NOW WILL PROBABLY DECIDE THAT THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO EXPAND THEIR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS. THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT IN PARTICULAR HOLDS THE VIEW THAT THE

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SECURITY OF MOZAMBIQUE IS THE KEY TO ITS OWN SECURITY AND HAS CONSISTENTLY DEFINED MOZAMBIQUE AS A BUFFER AGAINST INCREASED INSURGENCY IN RHODESIA IN ITS OWN DEFENSE PLANS. E2 IMPDET H (SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV. NMIO [REDACTED])

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